

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /110 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0750

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, GW, PINT

SUBJECT: RECENT GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

REF: WILGIS-SHACKLETON TELECON FEB. 22

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS WHICH SUGGEST THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT AMONG STUDENTS AND YOUTH FOR THE CDU, OR THAT GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION IS NOW SUPPORTING NATO DEFENSE EFFORTS MORE VIGOROUSLY AND LESS INCLINED TOWARD NEUTRALISM.

2. A LATE 1973 INFRATEST SURVEY COMMISSIONED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE SHOWED THAT SYMPATHY FOR THE SPD IS NOTICEABLY DECLINING AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. IN 1971, 62 PERCENT OF ALL STUDENTS QUERIED PREFERRED THE SPD; ONLY 45 PERCENT DID SO AT THE END OF 1973. CDU/CSU STUDENT FOLLOWING CONTINUES TO BE 14 PERCENT. THE POLL SUGGESTED THAT DECLINING STUDENT SYMPATHY FOR THE SPD IN FACT BENEFITED THE FDP; ITS STUDENT FOLLOWING INCREASED FROM 11 PERCENT TO 18 PERCENT. STUDENT SYMPATHY FOR THE DKP WAS UNCHANGED AT 5 PERCENT, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHOSE SYMPATHIES WERE UNDECIDED ROSE FROM 8 PERCENT IN 1971 TO

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20 PERCENT IN LATE 1973.

3. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON POLLS CONCERNING THE CURRENT ATTITUDES OF EITHER YOUTHS OR PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL TOWARD DEFENSE EFFORTS AND NATO, AS OPPOSED TRENDS TOWARD NEUTRALISM. THE LATEST POLL INFORMATION WE HAVE ON THE GENERAL TOPIC OF OVERALL GERMAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BUNDESWEHR WAS REPORTED IN AM A-56, JANUARY 30. THE LATEST POLL WE HAVE AVAILABLE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD NATO AND WESTERN DEFENSE DATES BACK TO MARCH-APRIL 1973.

4. WE ARE MAKING INQUIRIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE HAVE THE RESULTS OF ALL THE LATEST POLLS, BUT WE BELIEVE KOHL MAY HAVE REFERRED IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO A PRIVATELY COMMISSIONED POLL ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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